Complete eradication of child labour

1795. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when the practice of child labour will be completely eradicated in our country;

(b) whether Government propose to make the law more stringent; and

(c) what special steps would be taken to discourage the practice, apart from banning the same in 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Government is committed to the elimination of all forms of child labour. Child labour being a socio-economic problem is a result of poverty and illiteracy. Considering the magnitude and the nature of the problem, Government has adopted a gradual and sequential approach to withdraw and rehabilitate working children, beginning with those working in hazardous occupations/processes and then covering children working in other occupations. In this direction, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of the country.

(b) and (c) There are stringent provisions under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. As per Section 14 of the Act, any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is banned under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. The quantum of punishment for a repeat offence is imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 6 months but which may extend to two years. As the State Governments/UTs are appropriate Governments for enforcement of the Act, in their respective areas, directions are regularly being given to them for strict enforcement, creating public awareness on the issue and for effective implementation of the NCLP Scheme.

Roads under PMGSY in Himachal Pradesh

1796. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that roads constructed under PMGSY in Chirgaon/Rohru Tehsil in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh do not meet the norms of laid guidelines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the matter was brought to the notice of Engineer-in-Chief of HPPWD but no action has been taken as far as Badiyara-Nandla and the link road Dilot-Kulgaon-Shiroli is concerned;

(c) whether Government would consider for sending a Central team to ensure strict compliance of the guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?